

Developmental Disabilities Community Based Services  
(Services are considered voluntary as individuals/families choose which services they would like and are not forced to take services when funding becomes available).

An individual can choose which provider agency best suits their needs.

Vocational (day) services include teaching socialization skills, employment skills, motor skills, personal health care/hygiene skills, money management/time concepts skills, communication skills, leisure time/recreational skills, etc. Vocational services would start at age 21.

Residential services include teaching personal care skills, home management skills, communication skills, socialization skills, leisure/recreational skills, academic skills, apartment or some supported services in home. At this time there is a Registry of Unmet Needs across the state for funding residential services. The legislature appropriates funds as available for residential services.

There is another service called Non-Specialized Services in which the individual/guardian hires/trains/fires their own staff to assist them in whatever help they need assistance with in their own communities.

Respite services can be obtained either through the Lifespan Respite Subsidy program or the Developmental Disabilities Respite program. Lifespan Respite Subsidy program allows \$125.00 monthly for respite in which you choose whom you would like to provide this service and what rate to pay them. The Developmental Disabilities Respite program allows up to 240 hours or 30 days a year and is provided by staff from the provider agency or person chosen whom is contracted through the provider agency or provided through Non-specialized services.

Information needed to determine eligibility:

- Sign releases to gather needed reports (psychological reports, School MDT and IEP reports signed by school psychologist, medical records stating etiology and diagnosis, counseling reports/psychiatry reports relating to mental illness – intellectual or developmental disability must be primary diagnosis, to determine eligibility for services). If individual/guardian has records this is most helpful and will help speed process for determining eligibility.
- What services are being requested and for what date?
- Sign the Notice of Rights and Obligations. This specifies that all services available will be applied for and accepted, submit any tax returns as requested to Financial Responsibility in Lincoln, participate in any assessment needed including annual physical/dental exam, psychological exam, and Objective Assessment Process, as well as pay any share of cost for services that may be due to the provider. It also states that there

is a right for action to be taken within 45 days of request for services, to receive written notice of any decisions, terminations or changes or previously authorized services, as well as the right to file an appeal in writing of any decisions or action and to have a fair hearing on appeal – appeal must be made within 90 days of date of any Notice of Decision that is received.

- Need copy of birth certificate/social security card/naturalization certificate to determine citizenship status of U.S. and Nebraska.
- Is there guardianship or power of attorney status – need copy of these documents. If guardian is needed, should be established through attorney and courts prior to age 19 as this is the age of majority in Nebraska.
- Apply for Social Security/SSI benefits through Social Security Administration – can be applied for near age of 18.
- Apply for Medicaid benefits. If approved for SSI benefits, then categorically eligible for Medicaid benefits, however application still needs to be filled out. Can complete application through local Department of Health & Human Services office by paper application or by applying online at: <http://accessnebraska.ne.gov/>

If questions, contact DD Service Coordination staff.